

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	30264	<b>Agenda Number</b>	28.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	2/13/2014	<b>Department:</b>	Parks and Recreation
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**Subject**

Approve an ordinance accepting \$5,000 in grant funds from the Lora L. and Martin N. Kelley Foundation Trust; and amending the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20130909-001) to appropriate an additional \$5,000 for the Nature's Way Preschool "house in the trees" project.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding is available from the Lora L. and Martin N. Kelley Foundation Trust. The grant period is October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. A City match is not required.

**Fiscal Note**

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
<b>For More Information:</b>	Margaret Russell (512) 974-3867.
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

Chris Kelley visited the Austin Nature & Science Center during the Thanksgiving holiday and expressed interest in having his family foundation support the work being done at the site. His family board targeted the Nature's Way Preschool as recipient, and the "House among the Trees" project was accepted.

One of the earliest nature based preschools, Nature's Way Preschool (NWPS) has a long history of serving children in developing ties to nature and the outdoors while learning early skills for success. Our 21 year old program has graduated over 1,500 students from the year-long program, and guides 450 young children each summer.

The purpose of this request is to support the Nature's Way Preschool's focus of connecting these preschoolers with the natural world through hands-on experiences. The house among the trees will give the children an up-close perspective of the tree canopy, tree bark and animals in the trees, while giving them a wider view of the surrounding world. Swinging walkways, climbing ramps, and split level platforms increases preschoolers strength and flexibility for more exploration.

Parents of preschoolers are making donations to increase what is possible for the project to accomplish. The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.